

United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., Charleston Base

Minutes of Business Meeting

10 November 2022

Opening Ceremonies:

- The November 2022 Base Meeting was called to order by Base Commander Mike Ciesielko with a quorum of four officers and a total of 34 members. The meeting started at 1900 with the sound of the diving alarm.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Vice Commander Tom Lawson and recited by the members in attendance.
- The Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost during the month of November was given by Vice Commander Tom Lawson for Base Chaplain Nick Nichols (unable to attend this evening due to neighborhood flooding).
- Submarines lost during the month of November:
 - **USS ALBACORE (SS-218) November 7, 1944 - 11th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 85 souls**
 - **USS GROWLER (SS-215) November 8, 1944 - 12th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 86 souls**
 - **USS SCAMP (SS-277) November 16, 1944 - 8th War Patrol Lost with all hands - 83 souls**
 - **USS CORVINA (SS-226) November 16, 1943 - 1st War Patrol Lost with all hands - 82 souls**
 - **USS SCULPIN (SS-191) November 19, 1943 - 9th War Patrol Lost with 43 souls - 41**
 - **became POWs - 21 survived the war**
 - **5 Boats and 399 Men Lost**
- The Creed of USSVI was read by Vice Commander Tom Lawson.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

Introductions of New Attendees:

- We had no new guests present at the Base meeting tonight.

Old Business:

• **2023 Budget – Treasurer Ricky Collins for Comptroller Rick Wise:**

The proposed Charleston Base 2023 Budget had been provided to the Base members last month for review. Ricky requested and received a motion by Lou Leal and a second by Glenn Little. The vote was approved by those in attendance with no further discussion.

New Business:

- None

Secretary – Gordon Long:

- The Minutes from the October Base meeting had been emailed directly to the Base membership and have been promulgated on the Base Website. There were no changes and the October Base Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer – Ricky Collins:

- The Treasurer's Report for October was published and promulgated on the website. There were no revisions. The report was approved as presented.

Chaplain – Tom Lawson for Nick Nichols:

- Highlighted boat of the month:
 - **USS SCAMP SS-277** was probably sunk on November 16, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Tokyo Bay. On her 8th war patrol, she may have been damaged by a mine and was trailing oil, which helped Japanese coast defense vessels locate and destroy her with depth charges.
- There are several shipmates and family members who have given me information which they wish to be kept confidential at this time.

- **Margie Deal** passed away on Oct. 24th. Her service was held on Oct. 27th. I was out of town but he told me there were many SUBVETS who attended the viewing and funeral and he really appreciates the support.
- **Rodney McKanna** had surgery on his right knee Mrsa infection this past Monday. As of today he is still in the hospital. They removed and cleaned the artificial parts, then put an antibiotic spacer in. The leg then becomes non-weight bearing. Don't know how long this will be.
- **Rick Wise** fell on the 25th and went to the ER. Right arm is broken and he will have surgery at some point in the future.
- **J.J. Fortier** is going to Trident Hospital for a complete Lower Lumbar fusion with the nuts, bolts and rods. They will perform the surgery on November 15, 2022 at 1200. This is his last option.
- **Tom Cyrek** collapsed a couple of weeks ago. Was checked out and was OK. Talked to him today and he is doing as well as can be expected.
- **Chris LaForce** is believed to be in Acute Rehab on Johns Island. Reason unknown. Received this info from FRA Chaplain Bobbi Sutton on Oct. 29th. Attempts were made to contact his phone but no answer and the facility will not release any information.
- **Bill Roberts** had surgery to repair his aneurism stent. The surgery went well and he is continuing to recover.
- **David Wood** had 4-way bypass surgery which went and is still recovering at home. He is doing better although his spinal arthritis makes it hard to sit for long periods of time.
- **Thom Beach** is at the VICTORY HOUSE in Walterboro. His phone number is 843.809.9417.
- **Gene Weir** is still fighting his cancer.
- **Don Londergan** is still in Cypress Place on Midland Pkwy in room 136.
- Complete/update your page 2 if you have not done so.

Webmaster – Nick Nichols

- Website is constantly updated.
- Make use of the EVENTS page on the Charleston Base website. All events that are put out to the membership via email will be listed and updated on the events page.
- Pictures will now be on the USSVI National website. Please take a look at your profile on the National site and update it if needed. Many have missing info.
- The new website is now online. The site is www.ussvi.org. Everyone should have received an email telling them how to reset their password so they can login. If you have an issue let me know.
 - The National Commander sent all USSVI members with an email notice on how to log in on the new USSVI website at <http://www.USSVI.org>. The login is the email address you have listed with the USSVI, the password that you use is a lengthy one (at least 10 characters) but is a very important security feature of our website. After you do log in, send your Base Commander an email that you have.

Social Media – Lewis Leal:

- The October Base Meeting video was posted. The YouTube link was sent to all Base members via the Webmaster email. The Veterans Day ceremony will not be videoed since it is indoors and Lou will be working.

Kaps for Kids – Mike Emerson

- Not present.

Membership – Larry Knutson

- We currently have 262 Charleston Base Members. At this time, there are currently about 50 dinks. Last year, at this time, there were about half that many with unpaid dues.
- See Larry after the meeting or you can send dues payment via mail to Larry.
- Base standings: 1) Groton 1218 - 2) Hampton Roads 280 - 3) Charleston 262 – 4) Bremerton 252 - 5) Requin 195 - 6) San Diego 173 – 7) Long Island 159

National Awards – Mike Knaub

- Not present.

VA – Tom Lawson

- Nothing to report.

Scholarship – Carl Chinn

- The drawing for the Dolphin Clock Scholarship Raffle will be held at the end of the meeting tonight.
- The raffle for the 14 carat gold Dolphin ring will be held at the January Base meeting. The tickets for this are \$10 each. The online price for a similar item is around \$2,300.
- The Rummage Sale will be held this coming Saturday November 12. The location is at Halloween Express/Rodney's Rockets (1825 Old Trolley Road, Summerville). The rain will be gone and Carl will be there at 0530 to start setting up. The time of the sale will be from 0800 – 1300.

Special Events – Rick Sparger

- We have two parades in December:
 - Harleyville – DEC 2 – Line-up at 1730 / Start at 1900. We can throw candy at this event.
 - Goose Creek – DEC 10 – Line-up at 0930 / Start at 1000. Rick will provide more info as available.
- Due to the current weather, the Veterans Day ceremony has been moved indoors. It will be held at the VFW on Bellwright Road.

Fleet Reserve Association – Rick Sparger for Ken Hutchison

- Veterans Day Barbeque – The cost is \$12. The money received will be used to pay the county tax.

Recreation – Johnny Brown

- The Christmas Party will be held here at the FRA on December 3. It will be the same format as last year:
 - The Base will provide sandwich trays.
 - There is no cost to attend. Yes, FREE.
 - There will be a cash bar for drinks (alcohol).
 - Members are encouraged to bring desserts or other dishes as desired.

Nuclear Power School – Ray Sparks

- Nothing reported.

PAO/Newsletter – Ed Stank

- The Base Newsletter was published today.
- Ed submitted an article to American Submariner about the picnic with NNPTC and the Chief Selectees.
- Our Charleston Base Newsletter is being sent to the NNPTC Command Master Chief for distribution among the members at her command so that they can see what activities in which we are involved.
- Glenn Little provided an article to Ed about the Clamagore. Ed will send this to American Submariner.

Storekeeper – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody reminded us about the 2023 Submarine Calendars. The theme is "Perils in the Deep" and are \$10 each.

COB – Rick Sparger

- Nothing to report

Vice Commander – Tom Lawson

- John Lookabill, present tonight, who qualified submarines in 1955, has assumed the title of Senior Charleston Base member.

Base Commander – Mike Ciesielko

- Thanked each one for their attendance in spite of the weather. The Base Chaplain was "flooded in" and unable to be here tonight.

Good of the Order

Meeting Video/Donations – Woody Woodsmall

- Woody reported that he received a requests from Steve Smith, who states that he enjoys watching the recording of our Base meetings. He also requested a Holland Club hat and sent a check exceeding the amount required. He requested that the \$50 excess to be provided to the “Ship’s Fund”. This amount was given to Carl Chinn for the Scholarship Fund. The man had qualified in 1966 but lives three hours away and finds it hard to get to the meeting.

Benjamin Franklin Bench Installation – Ricky Collins

- There will be a memorial bench installed on December 7.

Nuclear Historian – Rick Carlson

- Not present.

After Battery – Ray Sparks

- Not present.

Gun Club – Mike Ciesielko

- Nothing new at this time.

Non-Nuclear Historian – Harry Nettles

- Not present.

Drawings & Auctions

- Dolphin Clock – Jerry Stout
- FRA Drawing – Gordon Williams
- Depth Charge Drawing – Rick Sparger

Closing Ceremony

- Vice Commander Tom Lawson led the group in a prayer of Benediction.
- Base Commander Mike Ciesielko announced adjournment of the meeting.
- Vice Commander Tom Lawson sounded three blasts of the diving alarm.
- Meeting closed at 1938.